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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia/England

DATE: 25X1X6

SUBJECT Activities of Ustasha and
 Croatian Peasant Party Representatives
 in London

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PAGES 2

ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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1. The Croatian political groups in-exile today are divided into two political camps, one group representing the GPP (Croatian Peasant Party) with Dr. V. Macek, now in Paris, as its leader, and another group which can be identified as the Ustasha organization but which to date has no clearly defined established leadership other than Ante Pavelich who has been in hiding since his escape from Zagreb. However, the latter group includes several Croats who have taken it upon themselves to keep the Ustasha organization intact, their London representative being Dr. Branimir Jelich. At the same time the GPP still maintains Dr. Jurač Krnjević as its London spokesman. Both of these men are constantly in contact with Croat groups abroad, among them one in the United States known as "The Provisional Central Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Croatian Political Refugees", which has its headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, and is supported by an active group of Croatian Franciscan Friars. Contact is also maintained with a well organized group in Argentina. (There also exists in Rome an organization known as "The Provisional Committee for the Protection and Welfare of Croatian Political Refugees", which is divided into two Croat groups, the Ustasha and the Macek Committees).

2. The political views of Jelich, who collaborates with Krnjević on matters of general interest to the Croatian people, are that fusion with the GPP is impossible since its leaders are even more autocratic and totalitarian than they were during the period 1939-1941 when they governed the Croatian Banovina. Jelich, before the war, served as propaganda director of the Ustasha movement, but is said never to have agreed with the extremists of this group who applied terrorist methods to achieve their ends. At the beginning of the war he was arrested by the British in Gibraltar and interned in England at the request of the Yugoslav Government. At the end of the war he was permitted to establish residence in England where he resumed his propaganda activities for the Ustasha organization. In the meantime he has managed to establish contact with many British political figures. He is in touch with Winston Churchill supplying him with Croatian documentary material for his study on Balkan problems; he has been received by Bevin to whom he argued the impossibility of creating a new Yugoslavia since the Croats and the Serbs cannot live together in one nation; he is on friendly terms with Laborite MP Stokes who is very interested in the Croatian question; he is also on good terms with Laborite MP Rhyn Davies; he receives strong support from Lady Holliberton of the Catholic Welfare Committee in London; and, he maintains contact with the Buxton brothers, Lady Listowel and Colonel Jan Kowalewski. From this position Jelich has

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been able to keep in contact with the following in Spain:
 Dr. Branko Benzon, former Ustashi Minister at Budapest and Berlin, at present in Madrid; Srecko Dragicevich, former Counsellor of Pavelich's legation at Madrid; Josip Pejacevich, former Pavelich Minister at Madrid; in Argentina: Dr. Zlatko Freisman (Salkovich); Ante Velenta; Petar Ciklich, a priest who recently arrived from Paris; Dr. Mate Jelich, former press attache at the Pavelich legation in Madrid; in Brazil: Edo and Tomislav Bulat, who have considerable sums of money derived from private and Ustasha sources. Jelich himself receives financial aid from Croat groups abroad to enable him to carry on his activities as well as to support himself.

3. Juraj Krnjevich on the other hand is carrying on his work through directives from Macek in Paris and maintains many contacts in London. For example, he works very closely with Seton-Watson. He is also in touch with Croat groups in the United States and South America. He is a frequent contributor to the American Croatian Herald in Chicago, Illinois, and other Croatian newspapers in the United States which serve as a mouthpiece for the Croat political emigres seeking to align the power of the United States behind their causes. Krnjevich, who works very closely with Macek on CPP policy, has recently been active in assisting the latter in his attempt to form a Central and Eastern European Peasant Party Opposition group. When the draft of the declaration of the Peasant Party Opposition movement was being drawn up, Krnjevich's suggestions were incorporated into the final version (see Formation of the Peasant Party Opposition Group, 30 December 1946). It was owing to his influence with Macek that instructions were sent to CPP representatives in Italy advising them to promote close and cordial relations with the Serbs, and on the other hand to do everything possible to effect a reconciliation between the CPP and the Ustasha movement in order to unify their activity at home and abroad. However, in a recent letter to Dr. Krivoslav Draganovich, who is in contact with Branimir Jelich in London and one of the leading Croats in Italy protecting Ustashi members, Krnjevich asked Draganovich not to take it amiss if he were forced from time to time to use the word "Yugoslavia" since this was only a blind and that he was not and never would be in favor of a united Yugoslavia.

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